

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/987,012
Response dated November 12, 2003
Reply to OA of August 1, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this case. Claims 2-20 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention Claims 1, 21, and 22, have been rejected.

Claims 1 and 21, have been amended to recite "one or more conductor filled trenches forming conductor patterns". Support for these amendments appears throughout the present specification, drawings, and claims as originally filed.

Claim 22 has been amended to delete the language "said underlying structure."

No new matter has been added.

In view of the claims as amended, and remarks set forth below, further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. At page 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Office Action, the Examiner requires corrected drawings of Figs. 12A-14B.

The Examiner states that these Figures should be designated by the legend "Prior Art" in place of "related art."

Accordingly, please find corrected Figures submitted herewith.

In view of the submitted corrected Figures, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this objection.

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II. At pages 3 and 4, paragraphs 5 and 6, of the Office Action, claim 22 has been rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

The Examiner states that there is no antecedent basis for the recitation of “said underlying structure” in claim 22.

Claim 22 has been amended to remove the noted recitation.

It is submitted that claim 22 as amended, is clear and definite within the meaning of 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

III. At page 4, paragraphs 7 and 8, of the Office Action, claims 1, 21, and 22, have been rejected under 35 USC § 102, as being anticipated by Iguchi.

The Examiner states that Applicant’s arguments presented on May 15, 2003, were not persuasive because: Iguchi discloses in the figures, that the metal polishing residue (21) is defined between sidewalls of the insulating films (2, 3 and 7); Iguchi does not limit the silicon oxynitride to any particular dielectric constant, thus, his disclosure encompasses all well-known silicon oxynitrides including a “lower dielectric constant than silicon oxide”; and there is no patentable difference that exists because there is no structural or functional difference between the metal polishing residues (21 and 22) of Iguchi and the present conductor patterns.

Claims 1 and 21, have been amended to require a peripheral multi-layer structure comprising one or more conductor filled trenches forming conductor patterns. This amendment finds support in the drawings as originally filed.

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The language “conductor filled trenches” means that the conductor is filled in the trench, which trench is a recessed portion or groove, previously made. This is clearly different from Iguchi, which discloses a metal residue formed at a stepped portion of one insulating layer, where the next insulating layer covers the metal residue.

Iguchi does not disclose forming conductor filled trenches, as required by the presently amended claims.

In view of the claims as amended, it is submitted that Iguchi does not teach each and every element of the claimed invention, as required for anticipation under 35 USC § 102. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1 and 21-22, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

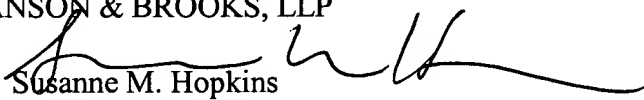


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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time

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